

## SYSTEM AND SERVICES FOR HANDLING COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTS AS DOCUMENTS

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for describing computing environments as electronic documents,  
5 programs or other types of electronic representation or data. The environment description  
can be easily created, transferred and ultimately used to create the specified environment for  
use by an end user, or users, in many different applications. The invention provides  
abstraction software and a user interface to allow a human user to specify a definition for the  
computing environment. Desired components are selected and included in the environment  
10 definition. Default components can be provided to help a user design a viable environment.  
Hardware and software components can also be associated with constraints so that, for  
example, incompatible components such as software that can not run on different central  
processing units, under certain operating systems, etc., will not be selected. Abstraction  
software can also use parameters to associate additional qualities, restrictions or properties  
15 with components. Environment definitions can be stored and transferred in a manner  
compatible with typical electronic information. Copies of definitions can be made.  
Definitions can be viewed by application programs, browsers, etc. Definitions can be edited  
by users with similar types of software, or with other, dedicated software. Environment  
definitions can be installed onto hardware and software resources by installation software.  
20 Environments can be installed on specific components from which the environment was  
originally abstracted, or on other sufficiently similar components. Environments can be  
remotely manipulated and accessed from computers, terminals, web browsers, handheld  
devices, or other devices. Various services can be provided, or implemented, with the system  
of the present invention. Examples of services include allowing interactive selection and  
25 loading of environments, uploading previously saved environments for storage and future  
use, replicating environments and distributing the environments as for a corporate-wide  
deployment in several countries, etc.

SF 1231248 v1